

Individual Tutors Earn Certification

In the summer of 2013, SOAR Tutoring Services (STS) became a nationally certified tutoring program, receiving Level One certification through the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA). This certification means that STS has reached and maintained national training standards and program elements. Since its inception, STS has strived to provide the students of Shelton State Community College with the highest quality of services in accordance with the mission of the SOAR Institute: “To provide dedicated support to enhance the success of underprepared students.”

As a result of SOAR’s dedication to student success, STS became the first two-year school in the state to receive national certification from CRLA and is currently one of only five post-secondary institutions in the state to have this certification. During the summer of 2014, STS completed the requirements to renew its certification through CRLA and was granted Stage Two, Level One certification. This certification is good for three years.

In order to gain certification, SOAR Tutoring Services completed a rigorous application process which included details of the trainings offered on specific topics such as the “Definition of Tutoring and Tutor Responsibilities,” “Active Listening and Paraphrasing,” “Ethics,” “Do’s and Don’ts of Tutoring,” and several other areas pertinent to the area of tutoring. Additionally, agendas, attendance sheets, presentations, student evaluations of tutoring, and data collected regarding the hours of provided tutoring were submitted as components of required documentation.

Certification through CRLA’s International Tutor Training Program allows the SOAR Institute to individually certify tutors who meet the minimum requirements for certification as set forth by CRLA. These requirements include ten hours of tutor training, twenty-five hours of one-on-one tutoring with SSCC students, and a currently active status. STS is pleased to announce that the following tutors have obtained Level 1 tutor certification: **Nichole Anders**, writing; **Shahara’To-va Dente**, writing; **Murrie Dixon**, writing; **Jeffry Fisher**, math; **Marquita Gray**, math; **Betty Jones**, math; **B. Loretta Lewis**, math; **Jason McCall**, writing; **Karen Morse**, math; **LaKeisha Roscoe**, writing; **Dhan Shahi**, math; **Andrea Smelley**, math; **Cole Smith**, math; **Carla Storey**, math; **Aishen Wang**, math; **Marie Wolfe**, math; and **Shanikia Young**, writing.

Additionally, SOAR Tutoring Services applied for, and was granted, Level 2 certification in February of 2015. STS is now able to individually certify tutors at the both Level 1 and Level 2 in accordance with CRLA guidelines. In order for a tutor to be certified at Level 2, they must have

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completed all Level One certification requirements, engaged in fifty hours of one-on-one tutoring sessions with SSCC students, and attended ten hours of tutor training including the review of Level One topics, plus a minimum of four of the following topics designated by CRLA:

Use of Probing Learning

Brain Dominance Learning

Cultural Awareness, Inter-Cultural Communications, Diversity and/or Special Needs Students

Identifying and Using Resources

Tutoring in Specific Skill and/or Subject Areas

Assess or Changing Study Behaviors

Tutors who have received Level One certification are now pursuing Level Two certification. In the fall of 2015, SOAR Tutoring Services will seek to renew its Level Two certification and begin working on Level Three certification requirements. Level Three is the final and highest stage of certification a program may receive.

WHAT WE SEEK IN OUR TUTORS

PATIENCE
dependable *coaching skills*
honesty *COMMUNITY* caring
DEVOTION *SMART* compassion *passion*
expertise *QUALITY*
CONSISTENCY *educators*

SOAR TUTORING DATA

More than 24,600 tutor visits since Fall 2011

Fall average: 44 tutor sessions per day

Spring average: 32 tutor sessions per day

Largest demand: Mathematics (3 to 1)

Tutors Comment on Receiving Certification

"I was very excited when I earned my certification. It meant a lot just to be able to 'pat myself on the back,' but I think the greatest honor came from knowing how many students I was able to help when they did not understand something or were confused in their math class. Also, the ability to add 'certified tutor' to my resume is extremely helpful. Being a certified tutor may benefit me by showing job recruiters I have good communication skills, mentoring skills, and other skills used in tutoring." – Andrea Smelley

"I have always enjoyed working one-on-one with students, but my very favorite thing about tutoring at SOAR is the supportive and helpful atmosphere. I think the force runs strong at Shelton, and it runs really strong at SOAR! There have been so many times when, after a student leaves, the tutors will talk about responding to situations or questions the visit raised. I have learned a tremendous amount about teaching and tutoring while working at SOAR." – Murrie Dixon

"First, being certified means that I have completed the necessary training to continue to give students the best help possible. Second, certification is a boost of confidence; it makes me want to continue to learn how to be the best tutor possible. Next, certification shows that my hard work and dedication hasn't gone unnoticed or unrewarded. Finally, certification reinforces my ability to provide great assistance to students and to be a viable resource for students who need help." – Sharara'Tova Dente

Put a Face with a Name: Tutors Earning Certification



Shaye Dente



Jeff Fisher



Jason McCall



Karen Morse



Lakeisha Roscoe



Andrea Smelley



Marie Wolfe



Shanikia Young

Certified Tutors Not Pictured

Nichole Anders, Murrie Dixon,
Marquita Gray, Betty Jones,
Loretta Lewis, Dhan Shahi, Cole
Smith, and Alshen Wang

Also Provided by SOAR

Tutoring Services

- **COMPASS Help Sessions** for new students or students who are retesting
- **Student Success Seminars** for currently enrolled students
- **Technology Basics** for currently enrolled students

